

## CLAIMS

1. A data processor for transferring a data stream, which is stored on a storage medium, to a connected device, the data stream including attribute information that specifies the format of the data stream, the data processor comprising:
- 5     an interface section, which communicates with the device to acquire format information about a format that is compatible with the device;
- 10     a reading section for reading the attribute information and the data stream from the storage medium;
- 15     a reading control section for determining, based on the attribute information and the format information, whether or not the format of the data stream needs to be converted; and
- 20     a converting section for outputting the data stream either after having converted the format of the data stream into the one specified by the format information or without converting the format of the data stream as determined by the reading control section,
- wherein the interface section transmits the data stream, which has been output from the converting section, to the

device.

2. The data processor of claim 1, wherein in the data stream, the attribute information, as well as copied  
5 management information, is stored on the storage medium, and  
wherein the reading section reads the management information and extracts the attribute information.

3. The data processor of claim 1, wherein the reading  
10 section reads the data stream and extracts the attribute information.

4. The data processor of claim 1, wherein the reading section changes the read rates of the data stream depending on  
15 whether or not the format needs to be converted.

5. The data processor of claim 4, wherein the reading section reads the data stream at a first rate if the format needs to be converted, but reads the data stream at a second  
20 rate, which is higher than the first rate, if the format need

not be converted.

6. A data processing method to be carried out by a data processor for transferring a data stream, which is stored on  
5 a storage medium, to a device that is connected to the data processor, the data stream including attribute information that specifies the format of the data stream, the method comprising the steps of:

communicating with the device to acquire format  
10 information about a format that is compatible with the device;

reading the attribute information and the data stream  
from the storage medium;

determining, based on the attribute information and the  
format information, whether or not the format of the data  
15 stream needs to be converted; and

outputting and transmitting the data stream to the  
device either after having converted the format of the data  
stream into the one specified by the format information or  
without converting the format of the data stream in  
20 accordance with the result of the step of determining.

7. The data processing method of claim 6, wherein in the data stream, the attribute information, as well as copied management information, is stored on the storage medium, and

5 wherein the step of reading includes reading the management information and extracting the attribute information.

8. The data processing method of claim 6, wherein the  
10 step of reading includes reading the data stream and extracting the attribute information.

9. The data processing method of claim 6, wherein the step of reading includes changing the read rates of the data  
15 stream depending on whether or not the format needs to be converted.

10. The data processing method of claim 9, wherein the step of reading includes reading the data stream at a first  
20 rate if the format needs to be converted, but reading the data

stream at a second rate, which is higher than the first rate,  
if the format need not be converted.